Appl. No. 10/620,206
Amdt. Dated April 3, 2007
Reply to Office Action of January 4, 2007

Attorney Docket No. 81940.0054
Customer No.: 26021

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Original)   An apparatus that uses digital contents, the apparatus comprising:

a reception processing section that receives from a provider apparatus a certificate containing a first provider ID embedded therein by a certification authority, and a digital content having a second provider ID embedded therein by a contents guarantee authority;

a first check processing section that judges by using the certificate as to whether or not the provider is authorized by the certification authority;

a storage processing section that reads the first provider ID from the certificate, correlates the first provider ID with the digital content, and store the digital content in a recording medium;

a detection processing section that detects the second provider ID from the digital content;

a second check processing section that compares the first provider ID and the second provider ID to judge whether or not the first provider ID and the second provider ID match; and

a use processing section that uses the digital content according to a decision made by the second check processing section.

2. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the use processing section restricts the use of the digital content when the second check processing section decides that the first provider ID and the second provider ID do not match.

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3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second provider ID is embedded as electronic watermark in the digital content by the contents guarantee authority.

4. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a notification processing section that notifies at least one of the certification authority, the contents guarantee authority and a contents holder owning the copyright of the digital content, when the second check processing section decides that the first provider ID and the second provider ID do not match.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the notification processing section notifies at least one of the certification authority, the contents guarantee authority and the contents holder of at least one of the first provider ID and the second provider ID, when the second check processing section decides that the first provider ID and the second provider ID do not match.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the detection processing section decides that a distribution route of the digital content is outside of a range of management when the second provider ID is not detected from the digital content, and the second check processing section decides that the distribution route of the digital content is illegal when the second check processing section decides that the first provider ID and the second provider ID do not match.

7. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the recording medium includes a contents storage section that stores the digital content, and a license management section that has a higher tamper resistance than the contents

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storage section and stores the first provider ID correlated with a name of the digital content.

8. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the detection processing section detects a content ID from the digital content when the detection processing section does not detect the second provider ID from the digital content, and the use processing section permits the use of the digital content when the detection processing section does not detect the content ID from the digital content.

9. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the provider apparatus embeds in the digital content a first user ID of a unit that uses the digital content,

the recording medium stores a second user ID,

the detection processing section detects the first user ID from the digital content when the second check processing section decides that the first provider ID and the second provider ID match, and

the second check processing section compares the first user ID and the second user ID to decide whether or not the first user ID and the second user ID match.

10. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the reception processing section requests the provider apparatus for the certificate before requesting the provider apparatus for the digital content, receives the certificate from the provider apparatus, requests the provider apparatus for the digital content when the first check processing section decides by using the certificate that the provider is authorized by the certification authority, and receives the digital content from the provider apparatus.

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11. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the storage medium stores a list of invalid certificates created by the certification authority, and the first check processing section decides that the provider is authorized by the certification authority when a certificate ID of the certificate is not included in the list of invalid certificates.

12. (Original) A method for using digital contents, the method comprising the steps of:

requesting a provider apparatus for a certificate containing a first provider ID embedded therein by a certification authority, and receiving the certificate from the provider apparatus;

deciding by using the certificate as to whether or not the provider is authorized by the certification authority;

requesting the provider apparatus for a digital content having a second provider ID embedded therein by a contents guarantee authority when the provider is authorized by the certification authority, and receiving the digital content from the provider apparatus;

reading the first provider ID from the certificate;

correlating the digital content with the second provider ID and storing the digital content in a storage medium;

detecting the second provider ID from the digital content in response to a request to use the digital content;

comparing the first provider ID and the second provider ID when the second provider ID is detected;

using the digital content when the first provider ID and the second provider ID match; and

restricting the use of the digital content when the first provider ID and the second provider ID do no match.

13. (Original) An apparatus that provides digital contents to a terminal, the apparatus comprising:

a storage device that stores a certificate having a first provider ID embedded therein by a certification authority and a digital content having a second provider ID embedded therein by a contents guarantee authority;

a first transmission processing section that transmits the certificate to the terminal in response to a request from the terminal; and

a second transmission processing section that transmits the digital content to the terminal in response to a request from the terminal, when the terminal decides by using the certificate that the provider is authorized by the certification authority,

wherein the terminal compares the first provider ID and the second provider ID to decide whether or not the first provider ID and the second provider ID match, and uses the digital content according to a resultant decision as to whether or not the first provider ID and the second provider ID match.

14. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the storage device stores a first terminal ID of a terminal that is authorized to receive the digital content, and the provider apparatus is equipped with a terminal certification section that requests the terminal for a second terminal ID before the second transmission processing section transmits the digital content to the terminal, and compares the first terminal ID and the second terminal ID to decides as to whether or not the first terminal ID and the second terminal ID match.

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15. (Original)   An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the second transmission processing section transmits the digital content to the terminal when the terminal certification section decides that the first terminal ID and the second terminal ID match.

16. (Original)   A method for providing digital contents to a terminal, the method comprising the steps of:

storing a certificate having a first provider ID embedded therein by a certification authority and a digital content having a second provider ID embedded therein by a contents guarantee authority;

transmitting the certificate to the terminal in response to a request from the terminal; and

transmitting the digital content to the terminal in response to a request from the terminal, when the terminal decides by using the certificate that the provider is authorized by the certification authority,

wherein the terminal compares the first provider ID and the second provider ID to decide whether or not the first provider ID and the second provider ID match, and uses the digital content according to a resultant decision as to whether or not the first provider ID and the second provider ID match.

17. (Original)   An apparatus that uses digital contents, the apparatus comprising:

a storage device that stores a first user ID of a unit that uses a digital content;

a reception processing section that receives from a provider apparatus a digital content having a second user ID of the unit embedded therein;

a detection processing section that detects the first user ID from the digital content;

a check processing section that compares the first user ID and the second user ID to decide as to whether or not the first user ID and the second user ID match; and

a use processing section that uses the digital content according to a decision of the check processing section.

18.   (Original)   A method for using digital contents, the method comprising the steps of:

storing a first user ID of a unit that uses a digital content;

receiving a digital content having a second user ID of the unit embedded therein from a provider apparatus that provides the digital content;

detecting the first user ID from the digital content;

comparing the first user ID and the second user ID and deciding as to whether or not the first user ID and the second user ID match; and

using the digital content according to a decision made in the step of deciding.

19.   (Original)   An apparatus that uses digital contents, the apparatus comprising:

a reception processing section that receives from a provider apparatus a certificate having a first provider ID embedded therein by a certification authority and receives from another provider a digital content having a second provider ID embedded therein by a contents guarantee authority;

a first check processing section that decides by using the certificate as to whether or not the provider is authorized by the certification authority;

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a storage processing section that reads the first provider ID from the certificate, correlates digital content with the first provider ID and stores the digital content in a storage medium;

a detection processing section that detects the second provider ID from the digital content;

a second check processing section that compares the first provider ID and the second provider ID and decides as to whether or not the first provider ID and the second provider ID match; and

a use processing section that uses the digital content according to a decision made by the second check processing section.

20. (Original) A method for using digital contents, the method comprising the steps of:

requesting a provider apparatus for a certificate containing a first provider ID embedded therein by a certification authority, and receiving the certificate from the provider apparatus;

deciding by using the certificate as to whether or not the provider is authorized by the certification authority;

requesting another provider apparatus for a digital content having a second provider ID embedded therein by a contents guarantee authority when the provider is authorized by the certification authority, and receiving the digital content from the other provider apparatus;

reading the first provider ID from the certificate;

correlating the digital content with the first provider ID and storing the digital content in a storage medium;

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detecting the second provider ID from the digital content in response to a request to use the digital content;

comparing the first provider ID and the second provider ID when the second provider ID is detected;

using the digital content when the first provider ID and the second provider ID match; and

restricting the use of the digital content when the first provider ID and the second provider ID do no match.